

Office of Congressman Charles W. Dent
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Congressman Dent tours Walter Reed Hospital, calls for more improvements to veterans' care

WASHINGTON, D.C. — U.S. Rep. Charlie Dent (PA-15) issued the following statement Friday after visiting Walter Reed Army Hospital:

“The allegation that our wounded troops returning from Iraq and Afghanistan are receiving substandard treatment in Building 18 of Walter Reed Hospital was shocking and appalling. There was clearly a failure of leadership in that facility and resignations of individuals responsible were appropriate.

“Today I went up to Walter Reed to find out personally what the Army is doing about the conditions in Building 18. There I had a chance to speak with the new commanding officer, Major General Eric Schoomaker, facility administrators, and wounded troops.

“I was pleased to learn that the Army has already taken some positive initiatives to improve patient care, including the establishment of a one-stop soldier and family assistance center. In addition, outpatient care is being re-evaluated, and most importantly, all wounded warriors (except those scheduled for imminent discharge) have been moved to Building 14 on the Walter Reed campus, which has been recently modernized and which is more centrally located on the installation.

“These improvements are a good first step, but the government must continue to do everything it can to provide the best possible medical care for

our wounded warriors. While in Washington, I will continue to vigorously monitor the situation at Walter Reed, as a repeat of the situation that led to the imposition of these reforms absolutely will not be tolerated.”

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